

Ask the U.S. Embassy

July 03, 2013

Qualifying for the expedited visa renewal procedure

Question: "My visa is going to expire in a few months and I already have a trip planned to visit the U.S. How can I renew it in time?"

If you are renewing a tourist visa (B1/B2) with full ten-year validity that is either still valid or expired within the past 48 months, you may qualify for expedited renewal procedures offered at the U.S. Embassy's consular section. The Kingston Interview Waiver Program (KIWP) allows certain qualified applicants to skip the personal interview stage of the visa renewal process, thereby saving time for applicants who have established a good travel history.

To qualify for the expedited renewal program, ALL of the following conditions must be met:

- You must be renewing the same class of visa (for example: B-1/B-2 for a new B-1/B-2).
- You must be a resident of Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, or Guantanamo Bay. (You need not be a Jamaican citizen.)
- You must not have any immigration violations or criminal offenses.
- You are able to provide the expired visa and any subsequent passports you have had since that visa was issued.
- The passport in which your renewed visa will be placed is of the same nationality as the passport containing the expired visa.
- The prior visa did not contain any annotation or show that a waiver was granted.
- Your prior visa must have been issued for its full validity.
- You have not been refused a visa of any class since the visa being renewed was issued.
- The previous Visitor Visa (B1/B2) or Crew Visa (C1/D) expired within **48 months** prior to the scheduled renewal appointment.

When making your visa appointment online (<http://jamaica.usvisa-info.com/>), be sure to read the information at the bottom of the screen about the requirements for "Personal Appearance Waiver" and "Visa Renewal" to see if you qualify. If you are using the call center to schedule your appointment (876-632-7400), be sure to indicate that you have previously had a visa and that you believe you might qualify for the interview waiver program. Utilizing these expedited services can save you time and ensure your visa is renewed for your upcoming trip to the U.S.

Please note that if you come to the embassy for a KIWP renewal appointment, but do not actually qualify for the program based on the criteria above, you will be asked to reschedule a regular interview and return on that date. If you apply with a group – for example a family –

those members of the group who do not qualify for KIWP will also have to return later for a regular visa interview.